New scheme for voluntary retirement in SAIL

120. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel Authority of India Limited has evolved a new scheme for voluntary retirement for its serving employees;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) how it differs from the VRSs offered by other public Sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Salient features of the Scheme are as follows:— VR Benefit - 35 days salary for every completed year of service and 25 days for every balance year. This amount is to be paid in lumpsum. Eligibility - 10 years of service or above 40 years of age.

(c) The VR Scheme 2001 has been prepared based on guidelines circulated in this regard by Department of Public Enterprises, which are applicable to all Public Sector Companies.

Sharp decline in the export of Steel

121. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sharp decline has been registered in the export of steel as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the level of the decline;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken for arresting such decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The exports of saleable